1. What is it?
   1. As defined by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills:  *the skills, knowledge and expertise students must master to succeed in work and life; it is a blend of content knowledge, specific skills, expertise and literacies* (Partnership for 21st Century Skills, 2011).
   2. Looks like: students developing an understanding of the essential skills and information to develop a certain ability to the point of innovation and to be able to apply that ability to the rapidly changing 21st Century world.
   3. *Communications in today’s interconnected world increasingly emphasize multimedia, and the arts are the media. For personal as well as professional success, students must therefore learn to critically interpret media messages, and to convey their own ideas through the medium of artistic form* (Dean et al., 2010).
2. Characteristics
   1. The Four Arts (Dean et al., 2010)
      1. Visual Arts
      2. Music
      3. Theatre
      4. Dance
   2. The skills that are “21st Century” (Dean et al., 2010)
      1. Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
      2. Communication
      3. Collaboration
      4. Creativity
      5. Innovation
      6. Information Literacy
      7. Media Literacy
      8. Information, Communication, and Technology Literacy
      9. Flexibility and Adaptability
      10. Initiative and Self-Direction
      11. Social and Cross-Cultural Skills
      12. Productivity and Accountability
      13. Leadership and Responsibility
      14. Interdisciplinary Themes
          1. Global Awareness
          2. Financial, Economic, Business and Entrepreneurial Literacy
          3. Civic Literacy
          4. Health Literacy
          5. Environmental Literacy
3. Who
   1. F. Robert Sabol and No Child Left Behind (Sabol, 2010)
   2. Commentaries for/against
4. Teaching Applications
   1. Backward Design and Teaching for Understanding (McTighe & Wiggins, 2005)
   2. The Project Learning Bicycle (Fadel & Trilling, 2009)
   3. Leslie Moore’s experience with classroom engagement (Moore, 2010)

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